

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 046660  
ORIGIN ARA-14

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PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /058 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:RCGRAHAM/ARA:TATODMAN  
APPROVED BY ARA:TATODMAN  
ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN

-----124233 230244Z /65

O 230203Z FEB 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 046660

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, PA

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR TODMAN MAKES DEMARCHE TO IAHRC VISIT  
TO PARAGUAYAN AMBASSADOR  
REF: ASUNCION 693

1. AMBASSADOR TODMAN CALLED IN PARAGUAYAN AMBASSADOR LOPEZ ESCOBAR ON FEBRUARY 22 TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF A DATE FOR THE IAHRC VISIT. AMBASSADOR TODMAN BEGAN BY INFORMING LOPEZ ESCOBAR OF THE RECENT TELEPHONE CALL HE HAD RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR CONRADO PAPPALARDO REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF US OBSERVERS AT THE PARAGUAYAN ELECTIONS. LOPEZ ESCOBAR STATED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE CALL.

2. AMBASSADOR TODMAN RECALLED THE PROCESS AND EVENTS WHICH LED TO HIS BEING CHARGED BY PRESIDENT CARTER TO WORK OUT DIRECTLY WITH STROESSNER AN ARRANGEMENT FOR AN IAHRC VISIT. HE RECALLED HIS MEETING WITH STROESSNER AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL BILATERAL IN WHICH STROESSNER GAVE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 046660

HIS WORD, AND THE PARAGUAYAN EMBASSY SUBSEQUENTLY A WRITTEN COMMITMENT, THAT THE IAHRC VISIT WOULD BE PERMITTED. TODMAN REFERRED TO OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER THE PARAGUAYAN ELECTIONS. HE NOTED THAT IAHRC CHAIRMAN AGUILAR WILL

BE COMMITTED TO LAW OF THE SEA MATTERS BEGINNING AT

THE END OF MARCH, AND THUS ANY FURTHER DELAY IN SETTING A DATE FOR THE VISIT WOULD BE VIEWED WITH UTMOST SERIOUSNESS AND COULD HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS.

3. AMBASSADOR TODMAN FIRMLY STRESSED THAT WE HAVE RELIED UPON THE WORD OF PRESIDENT STROESSNER AS THE BASIS OF GOOD FAITH IN COMMITMENTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IF THIS COMMITMENT IS NOT HONORED, THERE WOULD BE QUESTIONS ON THE MEANING OF FUTURE COMMITMENTS. LOPEZ ESCOBAR AGREED WITHOUT PROTEST THAT THIS IS THE CURRENT SITUATION. HE ATTEMPTED TO ATTRIBUTE THE GOP POSITION TO OUR NEGATIVE POSTURE IN THE IFIS, CITING THE \$33 MILLION IBRD LOAN AS A CASE IN POINT. TODMAN REPLIED THAT OUR POSITION ON THE IFI LOANS AND OTHER MATTERS WERE RELATED TO WHETHER PARAGUAY IS WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE IAHR.

4. AMBASSADOR TODMAN THEN ASKED HOW THE IAHR QUESTION COULD BE RESOLVED. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION OF A POSSIBLE VISIT TO ASUNCION BY LOPEZ ESCOBAR, WHO STRESSED THAT THE ISSUE IS DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO RESOLVE FROM WASHINGTON, TODMAN OFFERED TO TALK DIRECTLY TO STROESSNER BY TELEPHONE. LOPEZ ESCOBAR AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL. HE ADDED THAT HE EXPECTED TO TALK TO INTERIOR MINISTER MONTANARO, WHO IS ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, BY TELEPHONE THIS EVENING, FEBRUARY 22, AND WOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 046660

IMMEDIATELY ADVISE TODMAN IF ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE FOR THE CALL ON FEBRUARY 23. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, VISITS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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